29 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Domestic Networks Division

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FROM:

Liaison Division

Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT:

Uniform Telephone Service Preservation

Act of 1983

- 1. Attached, per your request, are copies of the subject bills, both as introduced in the House and in the Senate. The House bill, H.R. 4102, and its accompanying report, 98-479, represent the views of the House. This bill was passed by the House in mid-November and sent on to the Senate for its consideration.
- 2. The Senate, in the meantime, conducted hearings in committee on S. 1660, the results of which are recorded in Senate Report No. 98-270. The Senate has not debated S.1660 as yet, and therefore has not either voted on or passed the bill.
- 3. The probable progress of this matter will be for the Senate to debate and pass some version of S. 1660. Upon doing so, the House and Senate will go to a conference to reconcile differences between the bills passed by the two chambers. This conference bill will then go back to both chambers for their approval, and thence on to the President for his approval. Passage by both chambers of the Congress will in all likelihood not happen until early April at the soonest, and may not happen until well into the year, it being an election year with lots of recesses and election distractions.
- 4. This office will follow the progress of these bills and will report same to you as appropriate. Please contact me if we can be of further help.

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Attachments As stated Distribution:

Original - Addressee w/atts

1 - C/LD/OLL w/o atts

- LEG/OLL w/o atts

1 - TBC Subject w/atts

1 - TBC Chrono w/o atts

LD/OLL:TBC (29 December 1983)

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Memo from the Desk of . . .

84-0873

Victoria Toensing, Chief Counsel Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 224-1700

Erme -

Sen. Boldwater wonted

me to chuk with you

that the enclosed hill

does not affect hatinal

security - (regardless of jack thereof!)

Thanks

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II

98TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1917

To provide that the Federal Communications Commission shall not regulate the content of certain communications.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 3, 1983

Mr. PACKWOOD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide that the Federal Communications Commission shall not regulate the content of certain communications.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 That this Act may be cited as the "Freedom of Expression
- 4 Act of 1983".
- 5 FINDINGS
- 6 SEC. 2. The Congress finds that—
- 7 (1) free and unregulated communications media
- 8 are essential to our democratic society;
- 9 (2) there no longer is a scarcity of outlets for elec-
- 10 tronic communications;

13

1	(3) the electronic media should be accorded the
2	
3	(4) regulation of the content of information trans-
4	
5	
6	(5) regulation of the content of information trans-
7	mitted by the electronic media chills the editorial dis-
8	cretion of those media and causes self-censorship,
9	thereby dampening the vigor and limiting the variety of
10	public debate; and
11	(6) eliminating regulation of the content of infor-
12	mation transmitted by the electronic media will provide
13	the most effective protection for the right of the public
14	to receive suitable access to a variety of ideas and
15	experiences.
16	PURPOSES
17	SEC. 3. The purpose of this Act is to extend to the
18	electronic media the full protection of the First Amendment
19	guarantees of free speech and free press.
20	AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934
21	SEC. 4. The Communications Act of 1934 is amended—
22	(1) in section 312(a) by—
23	(A) adding "or" immediately at the end of
24	paragraph (5);

3

1	(B) striking out the semicolon and "or" in
2	paragraph (6) and inserting in lieu thereof a
3	period; and
4	(C) striking out paragraph (7);
5	(2) by repealing section 315;
6	(3) by amending section 326 to read as follows:
7	"SEC. 326. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to
8	give the Commission the power to-
9	"(1) censor any communication;
10	"(2) review the content of any completed commu-
11	nication; or
12	"(3) promulgate any regulation or fix any condi-
13	tion which shall interfere with the right of free speech,
14	including any requirement of an opportunity to be af-
15	forded for the presentation of any view on an issue.".
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